

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01  
AID-05 CU-04 SY-05 /070 W  
-----059982 201052Z /14

P R 200911Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7569  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
USIA WASHDC  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3608

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN  
SUBJECT: BOMB INCIDENT AT MPR

REF: (A) JAKARTA 3331 (DTG 140822Z MAR 78)  
(B) SURABAYA 0118 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: A HOMEMADE BOMB REPORTEDLY EXPLODED IN AN  
MPR BUILDING THE EVENING OF MARCH 19, DOING MINOR DAMAGE.  
THE GOVERNMENT, IF SO INCLINED, COULD USE THE INCIDENT  
AS RATIONALE FOR A NEW SECURITY CRACKDOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL SECURITY OFFICIALS INFORMED US THAT A HOMEMADE  
BOMB EXPLODED IN A LAVATORY OF THE MPR BUILDING ON THE  
EVENING OF MARCH 19. NO ONE WAS INJURED BUT THERE WAS  
SOME DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. (IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE  
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BUILDING IN QUESTION IS THE MPR OFFICE OR PLENARY  
BUILDING). FOUR PERSONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED AND  
MORE ARE BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT.  
SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT AS  
SUBSTANTIVELY "NOT MUCH" BUT PSYCHOLOGICALLY A "DISASTER".  
AN EMBOFF WHO VISITED THE MPR BUILDING ON THE MORNING OF  
MARCH 20 NOTED MUCH TIGHTER SECURITY AND MORE SECURITY

TROOPS AT THE MPR COMPLEX THAN WERE VISIBLE ON VISITS  
LAST WEEK.

3. OUTSIDE THE MPR, MEANWHILE, JAKARTA REMAINS QUIET.  
SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN LESS IN EVIDENCE IN RECENT DAYS  
THAN AT THE START OF THE MPR SESSION, AND THERE HAS BEEN  
NO REPETITION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL-BASED DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH  
MARRED THE MPR'S OPENING DAYS. SECURITY OFFICIALS PUBLICLY  
STATED OVER THE WEEKEND (BEFORE THE BOMB INCIDENT) THAT,  
CONTRARY TO RUMOR, NO SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE  
PLANNED FOR THE MARCH 22-23 PERIOD, WHEN THE PRESIDENT  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED AND INSTALLED.

4. OUTSIDE JAKARTA, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF SMALL  
SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS -- ALSO LED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS --  
IN SEVERAL CITIES IN WEST JAVA. AS A RESULT, ALMOST ALL  
WEST JAVA HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED UNTIL THE END  
OF THE MPR SESSION. BANDUNG HAS BEEN GENERALLY QUIET,  
WITH STUDENT STRIKES CONTINUING AT MOST MAJOR UNIVERSITIES.  
THE NEW TERM HAS STARTED AT THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE (ITB), BUT LESS THAN 1000 OF THE NORMAL COMPLEMENT  
OF 7500 UPPERCLASSMEN ARE ATTENDING CLASSES.  
ACCORDING TO JAKARTA NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, THERE WAS A  
RELATIVELY SERIOUS INCIDENT IN SURABAYA ON MARCH 15,  
WHEN TROOPS BROKE UP A DEMONSTRATION AT A LOCAL HIGH  
SCHOOL. TWELVE STUDENTS AND TWO SOLDIERS WERE REPORTEDLY  
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INJURED, FOUR OF THE STUDENTS REQUIRING HOSPITALIZATION. (FOR  
FURTHER DETAILS SEE REF B).

5. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO PROJECT THE IMPACT OF  
THE MPR BOMBING INCIDENT ON GOVERNMENT SECURITY PLANS.  
MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHO PLANTED THE BOMB, (OR, PERHAPS  
NOT THE SAME THING, WHO IS CHARGED WITH PLANTING IT).  
THE JUXTAPOSITION IN TIME OF THE INCIDENT WITH THE MOSLEM  
WALKOUT FROM THE MPR COMMITTEE SESSIONS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) MAY  
BE AN INVITING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME GOVERNMENT POLITICAL OPERATORS  
TO TRY TO TAR POLITICAL ISLAM WITH THE DEED. AT A MINIMUM,  
THE INCIDENT WILL GIVE THE GOVERNMENT AN EXCUSE TO TIGHTEN  
SECURITY ANOTHER NOTCH IF IT IS SO INCLINED. SECURITY TROOPS ARE  
ALREADY CAREFULLY MONITORING THOSE ENTERING AND LEAVING  
THE HOTELS WHERE MOST OUT OF TOWN MPR MEMBERS ARE  
STAYING, PHYSICALLY SEARCHING THOSE WHO APPEAR IN  
ANY WAY SUSPICIOUS. JOURNALISTIC SOURCES CLAIM THAT  
TWO STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED THIS MORNING NEAR ONE OF THE  
HOTELS FOR CARRYING "MOLOTOV COCKTAILS," BUT WE HAVE  
NO CONFIRMATION OF THAT REPORT. THE BOMBING INCIDENT  
WILL ALSO INEVITABLY SPUR MANY RUMORS. ONE FOREIGN  
PRESS OFFICE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS REPORTEDLY SENT OUT AN

ACCOUNT CLAIMING ONE PERSON INJURED AND 30 PEOPLE  
ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE BOMBING. THAT REPORT, TOO,  
IS SO FAR UNCONFIRMED, AND AN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER  
WHO HAPPENED TO BE AT THE MPR WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF  
SAID RUMORS OF AMBULANCES TAKING WOUNDED FROM THE SCENE  
ARE NOT TRUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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